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# WORKING TOGETHER FOR FIRE SAFETY

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NIST Standards Workshop

September 20, 2004



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# Fire Affects all of US

- Regardless of:

- Age
- Nationality
- Gender
- Political Affiliations
- Financial Standing

- Uncontrolled Fire:

- Kills
- Injures
- Destroys Property
- Is a financial burden to all people living in a community



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# Where We Have Been

- In 1973, the National Commission on Fire Prevention and Control released to the nation the results of their comprehensive look at America's fire problems, entitled America Burning.
  - 12,000 Americans losing their lives each year to fire
  - Over 300 firefighters lost to fire each year
  - 300,000 permanently injured and scared by fire every year
  - \$11 Billion (estimated) fire loss each year.
  - Little to no public fire education
  - Little to no training of firefighters
  - No sprinkler or smoke alarms
  - Little understood about the impact of building design and materials
  - Little to no research



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# TODAY

- 3500 to 4000 fire deaths a year
  - Mostly the very young and very old
- 100 firefighters a year lost in the Line of Duty
- Interoperability Issues being addressed
  - Working with manufacturers
- Research ongoing
  - NIST, NFPA, Underwriters Labs, architect organizations, DoD
- Over 620,000 students trained by USFA since Sept. 11, 2001



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# Working Together

- NIST

- Technology Transfers and migrations
- Fire Problem studies
- Investigation of firefighter deaths



- NFPA

- Standard review
- New standard development
- Public educations and safety support for firefighters

- Underwriter Labs

- Testing
- Certification of new equipment and products



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# Working Together

- International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)
- International Association of Firefighters (IAFF)
- National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC)
- Congressional Fire Service Institute (CFSI)
- State Fire Marshals
- Fire Prevention providers (PARADE)
- Arson Investigators
- National Information Officers Association and the MEDIA



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# Focus on NIMS and IMTs

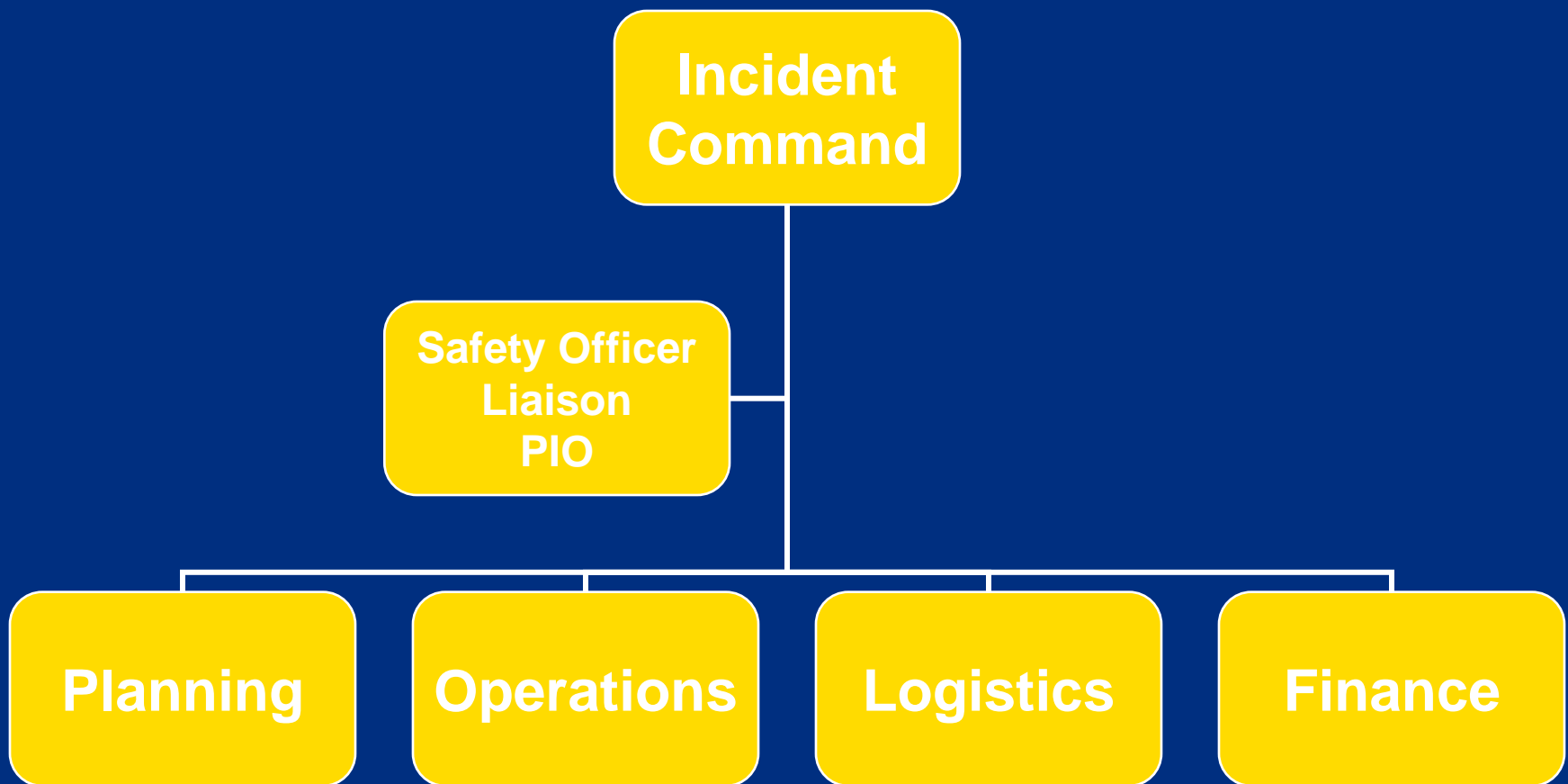
- ICS implementation in mid 70's ended 200 years of freelance firefighting
  - Resource management
  - Makes all events go away (response and recovery)
  - SAVES FIREFIGHTERS
- National Incident Management System (NIMS)
  - National Incident Management Center
- Incident Management Teams
- USARs



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# America's Incident Command System (ICS)



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# Fire Service Team Activities

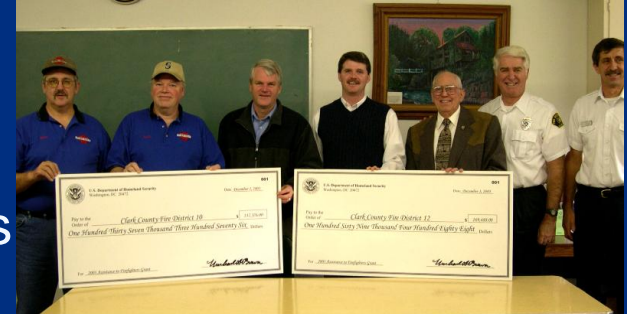
- ICS
- Equipment
  - Personal Protection Equipment
  - Thermal Imaging and long term applications of infrared technology
  - Apparatus Improvements
  - Standards for equipment (for example: breathing apparatus or SCBAs)
- Training
  - Standards
  - Simulations and use of new digital technologies
- Communications



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# Fire Service Team Activities

- Units of government planning together
- New and effective public education programs
  - USFA rapid response activities
  - Programs (national, state and local) targeted to specific problems
- National Data Center and Uniform Reporting Systems
  - Research and analyze the fire problem
  - Geographic and demographic information
  - Where to direct scarce resources
- President Bush has provided over \$1.9 billion dollars to support fire departments across the nation



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# Public Team Activities

- More and more people using smoke alarms
  - 80% of all deaths occur in homes with no fire protection
- Sprinkler legislation occurring in many local governments
- Builders and people working together to achieve safety
- Zoning laws and building codes being adopted
- Firewise and defensible zones around homes
- Escape plans, meeting locations, 911 dialing, home safety
- Working with older Americans to assist



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# The Fire Problem

- There is no single solution to protect this nation from fire
- This nation's fire problem will only be reduced through:
  - Teamwork
  - Application of new technologies
  - Publishing and using proven standards
  - Certification and testing of consumer products
  - Education
  - Research
  - Training
  - And the list goes on



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# The New Team

- All firefighters throughout the world know the value of teams
- Since America Burning was published, we have formed teams, and worked as teams to achieve the positive results we have
- But this is clear.....

While we know much about our the fire problem, we have much to learn from all firefighters throughout the world.

The USFA, standing with NIST, NFPA, UL and Consumer Product Safety stand ready to share what we know. However, we stand just as ready to become students and learn of your successes. Our team together...will make us all..... a little safer tonight.



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# Conclusion

- If it is the RIGHT thing to do.....  
the Right people will persevere !



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